R E M A R K S

Upon further consideration, the applicant withdraws the arguments for patentability submitted in the Response filed on January 11, 2008. The applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner instead reconsider the application based on the claims as set forth hereinabove and the arguments for patentability set forth below.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 (which formerly depended from claim 1).

Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1, instead of from (now canceled) claim 2.

No new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised which require further consideration on the merits and/or a new search.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of US 2001/0009443 ("Suemoto et al") and USP 6,401,202 ("Abgrall"). This rejection, however, is

respectfully traversed with respect to the claims set forth
above.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Suemoto et al nor
Abgrall discloses, teaches or suggests the technique for <u>starting
an initialization processing of an optical system to make the
driving unit of the optical system start moving the optical
system to a predetermined state</u> based on a startup program which
does not comprise an operating system, when the camera device is
started up in a state in which a recording mode for photographing
is set, wherein after starting the initialization processing to
make the driving unit start the moving of the optical system to
the predetermined state, based on the startup program which does
not comprise the operating system, a control program which does
comprise the optical system is started <u>without waiting for the
operating system to reach the predetermined state</u>.

That is, it is respectfully submitted that neither Suemoto
et al nor Abgrall discloses, teaches or suggests an
initialization processing to make the driving unit start moving
the optical system to the predetermined state, wherein the
initialization processing can be operated in parallel with
control based on a control program which comprises the operating
system and is executed after the startup program (which does not
comprise the optical system) is started.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Suemoto et al and
Abgrall, even if considered in combination, do not disclose,
teach or suggest, in particular, a control unit which when the
camera device is started up in a state in which a recording mode
for photographing is set, controls the driving unit to move the
optical system to a predetermined state by an initialization
processing based on a startup program which does not comprise an
operating system and then controls the driving unit based on
a control program comprising the operating system; and a memory
which stores the startup program and the control program, wherein
the control unit reads the startup program from the memory,
starts to move the optical system to the predetermined state by
the initialization processing based on the startup program, and
then reads the control program from the memory without waiting
for the optical system to reach the predetermined state.

With this structure of the claimed present invention, the
control unit starts the moving of the optical system to the
predetermined state by the startup program which does not
comprise the operating system (and requires only a short startup
time) when the camera device is started up in a state in which a
recording mode for photographing is set. Therefore, the camera
device recited in claim 1 can achieve a remarkable shortening of
the time period from the startup of the camera device to the time
at which the optical system reaches the predetermined state, as

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compared to a system in which a lens driving program to start
moving the optical system is started up after the startup of the
operating system (which requires a long startup time) as in the
technique disclosed by Suemoto et al.

Moreover, with the structure of the present invention as
recited in amended independent claim 1, the control unit reads
the control program (which comprises the operating system) from
the memory without waiting for the optical system to reach the
predetermined state. Therefore, the camera device recited in
claim 1 can achieve a remarkable shortening of the time period
from the startup of the camera device to the start of the control
based on the control program (comprising the operating system),
as compared with a system in which the control based on the
control program (comprising the operating system) starts after
the optical system reaches the predetermined state.

With respect to claim 2, the subject matter of which is now
incorporated in claim 2, the Examiner acknowledges that Suemoto
et al does not disclose the subject matter now recited in claim 1
whereby wherein the control unit reads the startup program from
the memory, starts to move the optical system to the
predetermined state by the initialization processing based on the
startup program, and then reads the control program from the
memory without waiting for the optical system to reach the
predetermined state. Moreover, the Examiner does not assert that

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Abgrall discloses the missing teachings of Suemoto et al.
Instead, the Examiner merely asserts that the object of Suemoto
et al "is to decrease the amount of time required for the camera
to be ready for recording," and the Examiner asserts that the
structure recited in claim 2 would have been obvious in view of
such a goal.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that the object of
Suemoto et al cited by the Examiner is vague and general, and
that there are many techniques that could be used to achieve such
an object. It is respectfully submitted that the <u>specific</u>
features now recited in claim 1 are not rendered obvious by the
general goal of decreasing the amount of time required to ready a
camera for recording.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the general
concept of decreasing the amount of time required to ready a
camera for recording lacks concreteness and would not have led
one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of
Suemoto et al and Abgrall.

In any event, it is respectfully submitted that neither
Suemoto et al nor Abgrall disclose, teach or suggest the
structure of the control unit recited in amended independent
claim 1, as explained above, and it is respectfully submitted
that even if it were reasonable to consider together Suemoto et
al and Abgrall together, the structural features and advantageous

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effects of the present invention as recited in amended

independent claim 1 still would not be achieved or rendered

obvious.

Re: JP 2001-268413

It should be understood that JP 2001-268413, which was cited

in the Office Action dated April 4, 2007, discloses a technique

for enabling the performing of a program transform processing and

a collapsible barrel release processing in parallel by utilizing

two control means (a main microcomputer and a sub microcomputer).

By contrast, the present invention as recited in independent

claim 1 enables the performing of control based on the control

program (which comprises the operating system) and the movement

of the optical system to the predetermined state by utilizing a

single control means.

* *

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that

independent claim 1 and claim 3 depending therefrom clearly

patentably distinguish over Suemoto et al and Abgrall, taken

singly or in combination, under 35 USC 103.

Entry of this Supplemental Amendment, allowance of the

claims and the passing of this application to issue are

respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or

recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the

undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt

action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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